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music files in the selected group in a second set of groups according to the second type of metadata associated with the music files in the selected group; and
(iv) a remote control device configured to control both at least some operation of the audio source device and at least some operation of the sound reproduction device.

125. (new) The audio reproduction system of claim 124 wherein the interface module is configured to provide a physical interface between the sound reproduction system and the audio source device.

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 92-93 and 102-104 without prejudice, and adds new claims 105-125. The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 80-83 and 85-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Contois (US Patent 5,864,868).

Regarding Claim 80, Contois discloses an audio reproduction system comprising:
a storage device containing a plurality of music files (Fig. 1), each music file including at least a first (Fig. 3, category) and second type (composer) of metadata that characterizes the music file; and a display device for displaying a user interface configured to present a first assemblage of the plurality of music files in a first set groups according to the first type of metadata associated with the music files, in response to a user selection of a group, wherein the second assemblage presents the music files in the selected group in a second set of groups according to the second type of metadata associated with the music files in the selected group (Fig. 3).

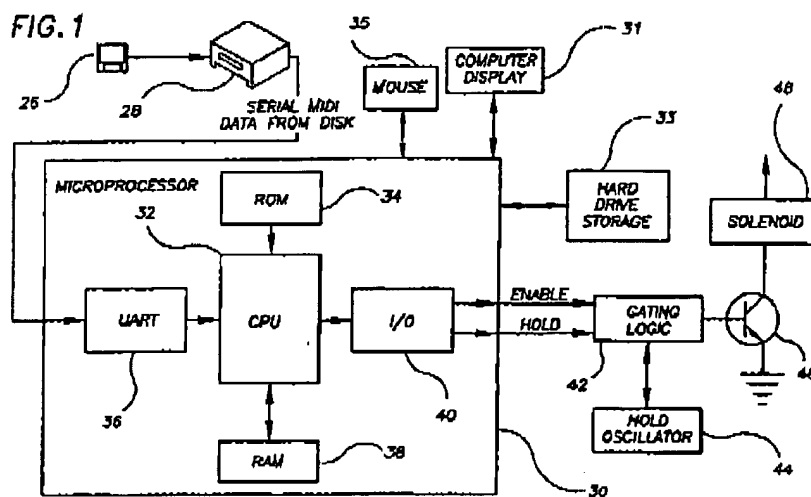
Amended independent claim 80 requires an audio reproduction system that includes an "audio source device" and an "enclosure", which includes a "powered speaker; an interface configured to operably couple the audio source device with the powered speaker; and control circuitry for receiving remote control signals". Claim 80 also now requires "a remote control configured to produce at least a first control signal that controls an operation of the audio source device, wherein the first control signal is received by the control circuitry and transmitted to the

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audio source device via the interface." These limitations are not disclosed or suggested in Contois.

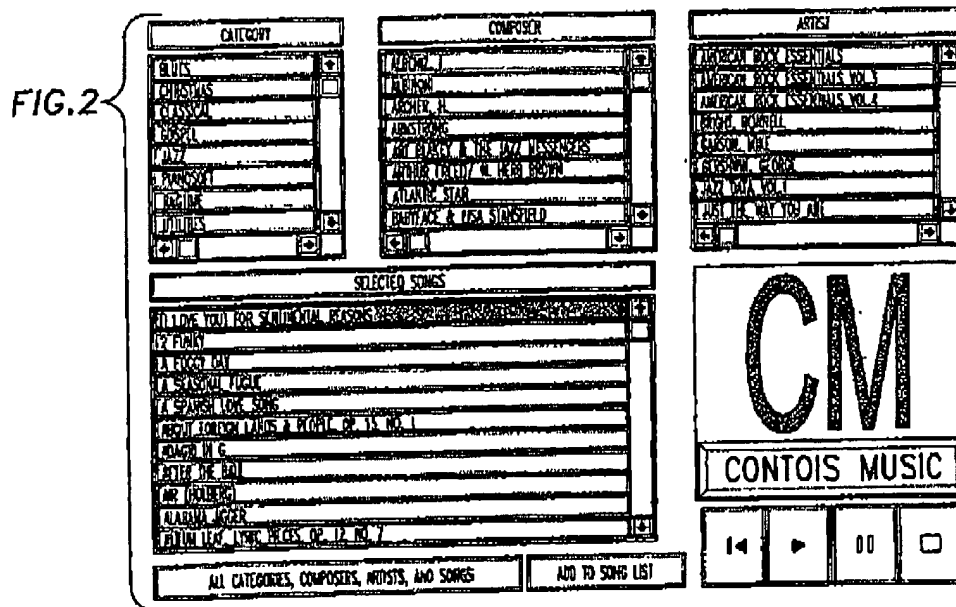
Contois discloses a computer system and user interface for controlling a musical play back device, such as a player piano. Figure 1, which is reproduced below, illustrates the basic architecture of the Contois system:



As shown, the Contois system includes a standard personal computer 30 that controls a solenoid 48 that actuates a media playing device such as a player piano. The personal computer 30 in Contois provides a graphical user interface that is displayed to a user on computer display 31. As shown in Fig. 2 (reproduced below), Contois' graphical user interface includes several "panes" of a virtual window, each pane listing music files by category, composer, artist, and song:

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Contois describes using his system to control other media player devices in addition to a player piano, such as an “electric guitar, a computer controlled multimedia system, a pipe organ, a television, a movie video player, or a computer screen.” (Col 13, 48-50).

In contrast to claim 80, Contois does not describe or suggest operably coupling an audio source device (e.g., a personal computer, personal music player, etc.) with a separate enclosure that includes a powered speaker and control circuitry for receiving control signals that are used to control the audio source device. In fact, Contois does not disclose any remote control for his system, much less a remote control that controls one device (e.g., an audio source device) through another device (e.g., an enclosure that includes a powered speaker). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 80, along with its dependent claims, are patentable over Contois and the other art of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

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4. Claim 82 and 93-104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Contois as applied in view of Katz et al. (Hereinafter "Katz") (US Patent 6,356,971).

... Regarding Claim 94, Contois discloses an audio reproduction system comprising: a sound reproduction device; a mass storage device (Fig. 1, hard drive 33) configured to store a plurality of music files each including at least a first and second type of metadata characterizing the respective music file (Fig. 3, category and composer); a computer configured to interface with the sound reproduction device and a network (Fig. 1), the computer comprising: a processor (cpu 32); instructions stored on a computer readable media that when executed, cause the processor to: assemble the plurality of music files into a first set of groups based on the first metadata associated with each respective music file (Fig. 3, category and composer); assemble the plurality of music files into a second set of groups (composer) based on the second metadata associated with each respective music file. Contois does not disclose detecting an addition of a new music file to the plurality of music files after the plurality of music files have been assembled into the first and second sets of groups, and in response to detection of a new music file, automatically updating the first and second set of groups with the new music file based on first and second type of metadata associated with the new music file. Katz discloses a system for managing multimedia files including adding a file to a collection (Col. 8, lines 19-30). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include detection and updating of groups in order to provide means for adding additional music files to the list of available.

Amended claim 94 requires an audio reproduction system that includes a "sound reproduction device comprising at least one speaker" and an "music storage device configured to removably connect with the sound reproduction device via [an] interface unit". Claim 94 also requires "a remote control device configured to transmit commands to the sound reproduction device, wherein the commands received at the sound reproduction device control at least some operation of both the sound reproduction device and the music storage device." Neither Contois nor Katz describe or suggest these limitations.

As described above, the Contois system does not include any remote control device, much less one that controls both operation of a sound reproduction device (e.g., a powered speaker unit) and a music storage device (e.g., a personal computer or a personal media player device). Katz discloses a system for managing media files on a computer, and, like Contois does not describe a remote control device that transmits commands to a sound reproduction device (which in Contois would correspond to his player piano device), wherein the commands received at the sound reproduction device control at least some operation of both the sound reproduction device and the music storage device (which in Contois would correspond to his personal computer 30).

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For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 94, along with its dependent claims, are patentable over Contois and the other art of record.

New claims 105-125 are either dependent on amended claims 80 and 94 or contain limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by Contois and the other art of record.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
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